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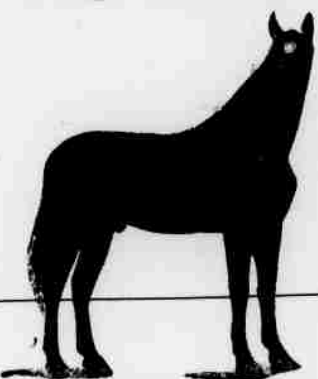
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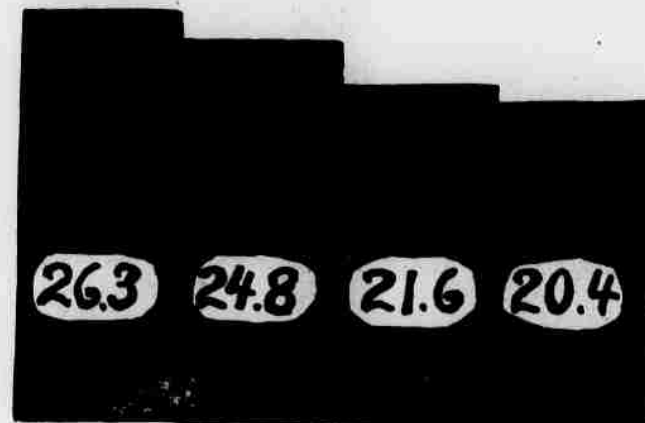
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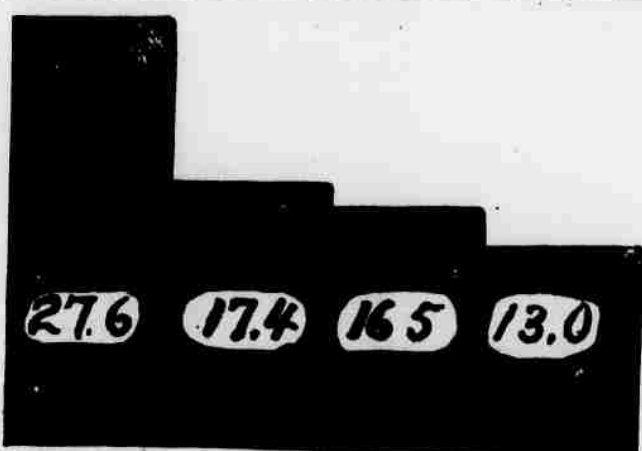
When Carried On Too Long Ruins Land

F. B. Mumford, Dean of the Missouri
College of Agriculture, Before Na-
tional Conservation Congress.

"Exclusive grain farming, as practiced from New England westward to the Dakotas, has left behind a trail of depleted soils, and where carried on for too long a time, ruined farms and abandoned homes have marked the way. These same soils are today being reclaimed and profitably tilled as the result of changing from grain farming to dairy and stock farming. This change has taken place in Ohio, Michigan and Wisconsin, and is now taking place in Minnesota. The result of a profitable system of live stock farming on even the poorest of soils is to be seen in Holland. On thin sandy lands reclaimed from the sea, dairy farming has increased the value of the farming lands until they are now valued at \$500 to \$1,000 per acre. Holland today supports a population twelve times as dense as Illinois and yet has an annual surplus of cheese and butter export amounting to more than four dollars per acre."



20 year's Wheat - Manured



20 year's Wheat - No treatment

Two fields were under the same conditions as to cultivation, and the soil was as near the same as was possible. The only difference was that one received a coat of manure each year, and the other received no treatment. Both were cropped in wheat for 20 years. The diagram shows that while the field that was manured declined somewhat in yield, the other declined much more rapidly, so that after the first five year period it was scarcely profitable. Each of the four steps of the diagram represents the average of five years, and the figures are bushels. The manure made the difference.

TREES DO NOT NEED IRON

DRIVING NAILS IN APPLE TREES
A MISTAKEN IDEA.

By W. L. Chandler, Department of
Horticulture, University
of Missouri.

There has long been an idea among orchardists that by driving nails into the trunks of apple trees they could supply iron to the trees and cause fruiting. The nails often do cause the trees to bear fruit earlier, or during a season when they would not otherwise, but it is not because they supply iron.

"There is no orchard soil in Missouri. Driving nails into trees has amount of iron needed by trees," says W. L. Chandler of the Department of Horticulture at the University of Missouri. "Driving nails into trees has an entirely different effect on the trees which causes them to come into bearing."

"Sap from the ground goes up through the tree in the layer of wood just around the heart-wood. It carries certain materials to the leaves, which are there digested and mixed with some food materials taken from the air. Then this food material which is digested is transported back to the roots. It travels down through the cambium layer, which is the soft growing layer directly underneath the bark. If this layer is injured or cut, the food material can not go back to the roots, so it is crowded out into the buds and forces them to bear fruit."

If the cambium layer is seriously injured, as in complete girdling, the trees die. This accounts for the old methods of deadening forest trees. Much better than driving nails, however, is careful cutting in this cambium layer. This is a delicate operation, and at best is a dangerous one. In the hands of an expert it is a means of forcing a tree into bearing when it would not bear otherwise. Varieties which naturally bear late in life may be made to bear earlier by this means. Doctor Whitten, head of the Department of Horticulture at the University of Missouri, tells of causing a two-year-old pear tree to bear several large pears while it was still only a switch. This was done by tying a wire around it near the ground.

While this operation of forcing a tree into bearing is dangerous, one of the best ways, if it is to be done at all, is to make a spiral cut around the trunk so that it does not completely cut off the circulation, but merely injures it temporarily. A dull knife is better for this, or a sickle, as a sharp cut would grow together too soon.

COWS SHOULD CALVE IN FALL

Dairy Department, University of Missouri, Gives Several Reasons.

A number of reasons are given for the practice of most dairymen of having cows calve in the fall instead of in the spring. The Dairy Department of the University of Missouri recommends this as the best practice in most cases, for some of the following reasons:

"Prices for milk and butter fat are highest in the winter, and it is desirable that the cow be fresh to give the maximum flow. When she begins to decline in the spring, the fresh grass of pastures will stimulate her to hold up to good production."

"Calves in the first few months of their growth are fed mostly by hand. In winter there is more time to care for them properly. The grass of spring will come along just when they are getting started on a rapid growth."

"The dry period of the cow will come at the time of year when pastures are usually poor in Missouri, and when flies are bad. This will give relief to the cows when they need it, and will be easier for the milkers."

"In cases where a regular milk trade is to be supplied, it is necessary to have the cows calve at intervals so that there will be almost a uniform flow, but where the farmer is selling cream it seems best to have the calves come in the fall."

It is a mistake to allow orchard land to lie hard and crusty in the spring simply because there are no weeds growing. The orchard needs cultivation just as does the corn. A mulch should be maintained so as to prevent the escape of the moisture. During midsummer the moisture will be needed, and if it is dried out the trees may suffer and shed their leaves early.

"No scheme of soil conservation can be successful unless it is profitable. If live stock farming conserves fertility but is unprofitable, then it need not be further considered. But livestock farming is profitable, and is more profitable than any other system of permanent agriculture that has been devised."—Dean F. B. Mumford of Missouri Agricultural College.

According to Professor Kempster, of the Poultry Department at the University of Missouri, the orchard or the cornfield is the ideal place for poultry raising. The hens get plenty of exercise and plenty of animal food in the form of grubs and insects. Close confinement is never so good for hens as wide range.

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